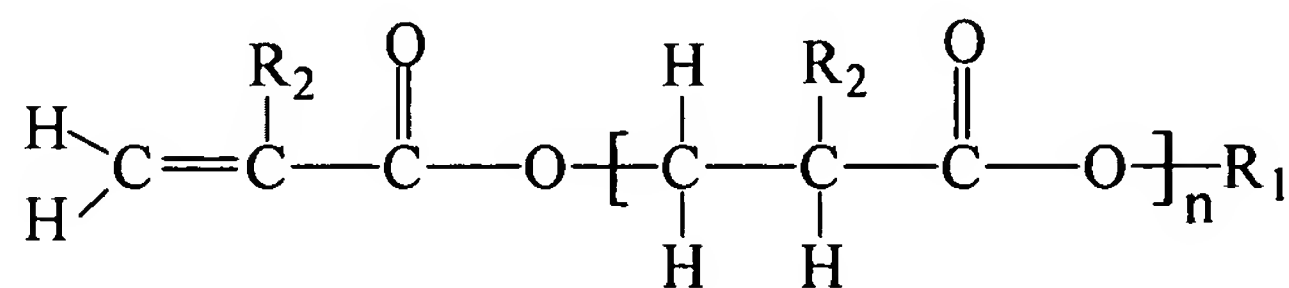


**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete the current Abstract on page 35 of the specification and add the following new abstract:

**Abstract**

A process and a device usable in cleaving a (meth)acrylic acid oligomer of structure I



I

wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> alkyl groups,

R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and

n is a whole number within the range between 1 and 200,

is disclosed. Optionally, the process and/or the device are capable of including a cleaving agent of the structure R<sub>3</sub>-OH or of the structure (R<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-N-H, whereby R<sub>3</sub> is a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, or a -C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>2x</sub>-OH- group, whereby x is a whole number within a range from 1 to 12, and R<sub>4</sub> is a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, with the proviso that not both R<sub>4</sub> groups are hydrogen atoms. With or without the cleaving agent, the process and/or the device involve heating to a temperature of at least 50°C at a pressure of at least 1 bar.

Please amend the title to read: "CLEAVING OLIGOMERIC (METH)ACRYLIC  
ACID IN A LIQUID PHASE UNDER PRESSURE."

Please delete the section titled "List of Reference Numerals" on pages 33-34 of the  
specification.